

PENISTONE URBAN DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1942.

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Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report, upon the health, etc., of the district, for the year ending 1942.

The population of the Urban District of Penistone is estimated in mid-1942 as 5,923.

There were registered during the year the births of 55 living boys and 53 living girls; of these, 1 boy and 2 girls were illegitimate. There were also registered the still-births of three males. The total of live births was 108. This gives a live birth rate per thousand of the civilian population (incidentally, all the figures given apply to the civil. pop. only) of 18.1. The birth rate for England and Wales was 15.8, for 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London, 17.3, for 148 smaller Towns of a resident population of 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census, 13.4. I think that the figure for Penistone is very creditable and a good contribution to the war effort.

The deaths for 1942, from all causes, were 35 males and 25 females, a total of 60, giving a death rate of 10.1 per thousand inhabitants. The death rate for England and Wales from all causes was 11.6, for 126 C.B.'s and Great Towns, including London, 13.3, 148 smaller Towns 12.1. I should like to remind you that during 1942 very many young men and women were called to do service in the Military, Naval and Air Force units, so that the average age in the P.U.D. is much higher than it was before the advent of conscription. It is all the more creditable, therefore, to find that the Penistone death rate is lower than any other of which the details are available to me.

In the P.U.D., as in the case of all England and Wales, no deaths took place from Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever. One male and one female died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis; one male from a type of Venereal disease; one male from Influenza; one male from Measles; three males from various forms of Cancer (of the mouth, throat and stomach) and one female from Cancer of the breast. Three males and three females died from Cancer in other parts of the system, making a total of 10 deaths from Cancer, a death rate of over 1.68, (very high).

Four infants, all legitimate, died before the age of twelve months. This gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 33.3. For England and Wales (all per thousand) 49, for 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London, 59, for the 148 smaller Towns, 46 per thousand live births. So that you see the P.U.D. compares very favourably with the average for the lowest in the country. It may be of interest, since we are on this subject, to give you a few figures with regard to the expectation of life in this and other countries. At birth in England, a child, if a boy, can expect to live for 60.2 years, if a girl, for 64.4 years. Owing to the fact that the death rate for the first year of life is higher than at almost any subsequent age, if a child survives its first year and attains the age of one, if a boy, can expect another 65.3 years, if a girl, 66.8. Similar statistics at the age of one:-

New Zealand.	Boy 66.9.	Girl 69.9.
Australia.	" 65.5.	" 68.7.
Denmark.	" 66.9.	" 67.1.
In Germany, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland,		
Union of South Africa and the U.S.A.,		
all can expect to live at least 60 years.		
A man or woman who attains the age of 100		
can expect to live another 13 months.		

During the year, there were notified 42 cases of Scarlet Fever, 19 of Whooping Cough, 2 of Diphtheria, 1 of Erysipelas, 70 of Measles, and 3 of Pneumonia. Both of the cases of Diphtheria are said to have been immunised, but the date of onset after immunisation is not known and it takes three months for the vaccine to attain to its full effect. All the Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases were removed to Hospital. There was no epidemic of true Influenza. The majority of people who say they have had the 'flu have really had a feverish cold, usually from a post-nasal infection.

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V.D. and T.B. Infections. In the whole of England and Wales both of these infections have increased since 1941. The increase in the T.B. infection, though marked, was not so numerous as in the '41 returns. On the other hand the V.D. is still increasing and is estimated to be over 100% higher than before the War.

The Effect of Over-time upon Individuals of Middle Age. I have seen a good many cases where I have given certificates of incapacity for work for "Industrial Fatigue", hoping that the Works management or Approved Society would take exception; the only one who rose to the bait was the Secretary of a Society, who objected. After an exchange of several letters he ceased to correspond and paid out.

Nutrition has been fairly well conserved for the fourth year of War. One effect of present day diet is noticeable however, chiefly amongst the female sex of over 25, that is, a deposit of fat in inappropriate places. I think there is no doubt that this is due to an unbalanced diet, in these cases too much starch and not enough protein. I still think that individuals doing strenuous physical labour should have a much bigger protein allowance than those whose occupation is practically sedentary. There has been no evidence of the lack of the four principal vitamins, A, B1, C and D, with the possible exception of A. Vitamin A has been called the "anti-infective vitamin" and administered at large works with the idea that it prevents against all infections. It helps against night blindness and infections of the skin and mouth, but does not protect against epidemics.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) A. GORDON WILSON.

M.B., M.O.H.



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MILK SUPPLY cont.....

Observations as to structural conditions, cleanliness & methods of production and handling of milk.....

No. of Licences in force for production of "Accredited" Milk.....2.....
Samples..4.(Satisfactory).....

MEAT INSPECTION.

No. of seizures of unsound food...11.....
Total Weight.173.lbs..(including 53 lbs. of food)..

OTHER FOODS.

No. of Bakehouses in district...4.....
Total Inspections.....12.....

SCHOOLS.

No. of Schools in district.....7.....

SHOPS ACT 1934.

No. of Visits.....21.....
Unsatisfactory.....Nil.....

INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

Diseases specially prevalent in 1942...Scarlet Fever (Jan. to June).....
Measles. (December).....

MORTUARIES.

Accommodation for accidents....Penistone Burial Board.- 1. slab
For infectious cases other than at hospital.....NONE
For other cases.....Same as for Accidents.....
For lost Morten examinations....None Mortuary.....

HEALTH STAFF.

One part time H.O.H. & 1 Sanitary Inspector. until June 1942 1 Assistant Inspector.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the honour of laying before you the Report of the late Medical Officer of Health for Penistone, Dr. A. G. Wilson, the statistics of which, were compiled by him, shortly before his death. In view of the paper shortage, it has been necessarily curtailed:-

The type of presentation I have chosen is; (1) all the vital statistics for this district, with comparisons between the rest of England & Wales, and, (2) some remarks upon Housing, Water Supply, and some remarks upon General Health & Hygiene.

Births. During 1943, there were registered the births of 51 boys and 47 girls, giving a total of 98 live births. The birth rate was 16.5 per thousand, and that for England & Wales was also 16.5 per thousand. You will notice that the birth rates correspond exactly, but the Death and Infantile Mortality rates are considerably lower in Penistone, than for the rest of the country. There is a popular fallacy which I would like to correct, and that is, that it is safer for a mother to have her baby in a Nursing Home than in her own home. This is not so. The death rate for mothers who have babies in ordinary clean homes is very little different from the figures from often very expensive Nursing Homes. In this connection, I want to point out as I did many years ago, that the mortality rate amongst mothers in one of the wealthiest parts of London (Westminster), where the majority of mothers were confined in expensive Nursing Homes, was just about the same as for Jarrow, which was then considered the most derelict and overcrowded area in England.

Infantile Mortality. In addition to the total of 98 live births, there were two still births, which do not affect the Infantile Mortality Rate. Two infants died before reaching the age of twelve months, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 20.4 per thousand, for Penistone, and 49 per thousand for England & Wales.

Deaths. There were 50 deaths out of a population of 5,873, giving a death rate of 8.5 per thousand. The death rate for England & Wales was 12.1 per thousand. I must warn you that though these rates for Penistone look very good, it is impossible to get a true finding, when dealing with so small a population. There was no great preponderance of any one cause of deaths. It is worthy of remark that two males died of pulmonary tuberculosis, only one of influenza, while cancer of various organs caused the death of five males and three females. It is inevitable that the longer people live, the more likely are they to die of cancer, which is a disease of late age. No road traffic deaths were reported. It is note-worthy, that no fewer than seven males and two females died of various types of heart disease.

Water. During the year, 95,000,000 gallons of water were sold to Darton, and 32,754,000 gallons to the Railway Co. The domestic Water Supply was adequate in quantity and quality.

Housing. The problem of Post-War Housing is going to be a difficult one. I consider, that if all minor defects be dealt with, as soon as possible, as they arise, this will undoubtedly decrease the very great expenditure necessary after the War. I will tell you again, that my standard of housing, is that every house should be fit for a woman to have a baby in.

Nutrition. Both in children, and in older healthy people, it has been satisfactory. I must point out that in a semi-rural district like ours, the people are always better fed, than a similar class of people in large towns.

/Over.

Infectious Diseases. During the year, the following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified:-

Measles.	100.
Scarlet Fever.	26.
Whooping Cough.	19.
Acute Pneumonia.	1.
Erysipelas.	1.

All the Scarlet Fever cases were removed to Hospital.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ALFRED A. MASSER, M.B. Ch.B.

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.